

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 DODE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PM-03 SP-02

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DRAFTED BY DOD/ISA:LT. COL. KING:MGH

APPROVED BY EA/TB:GBROBERTS

DOD/ISA:MABRAMOWITZ

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 168692

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, MARR, TH, US

SUBJECT: U.S. RESIDUAL PRESENCE IN THAILAND: THAI
DEMARCHE IN WASHINGTON

1. ON 7 JULY AMBASSADOR UPADIT ALSO CALLED UPON DASD/ISA
ABRAMOWITZ TO DISCUSS AIT AND ICS.

2. ABRAMOWITZ EXPLAINED THE IMPACT OF THE REVISED SECTION
514 OF THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT WHICH WAS SIGNED INTO
LAW ON 30 JUNE. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF
DEFENSE HAD GONE TO EXTRAORDINARY EFFORTS TO DEVELOP AN
ARRANGEMENT WHEREBY THE AMMUNITION COULD REMAIN IN THAI-
LAND OVER A SPECIFIED PERIOD. ABRAMOWITZ POINTED OUT THAT
THERE WERE PRESSING NEEDS FOR THIS AMMUNITION ELSEWHERE,
BUT IN AN EFFORT TO BE AS RESPONSIVE AS POSSIBLE TO THAI
REQUIREMENTS THE ADMINISTRATION HAD DEVELOPED THE PROPOSED
ARRANGEMENT. ABRAMOWITZ STATED EMPHATICALLY THAT THERE
WAS NO LEGAL WAY THE AMMUNITION COULD BE TURNED OVER TO
THE THAI AT NO COST OR AT A TOKEN COST NOR THE AMMUNITION

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LEFT THERE INDEFINITELY.

3. WITH REGARD TO ICS, ABRAMOWITZ POINTED OUT THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE HAD BEEN VERY FORTHCOMING. THE THAI WERE GAINING ALL ELEMENTS OF THE ICS THAT COULD BE

LEGALLY TRANSFERRED AND THE NON-EXCESS ITEMS WERE BEING LENT TO THE THAI AT NO COST.

4. MR. ABRAMOWITZ POINTED OUT THAT WE WERE BOUND BY LEGAL REQUIREMENTS BUT IN ADDITION THE THAI POSITION CONCERNING A RESIDUAL US MILITARY PRESENCE HAD MADE IT LEGISLATIVELY AND POLITICALLY DIFFICULT FOR THE ADMINISTRATION TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO THAILAND. HOWEVER, WE RECOGNIZED THE LEGITIMATE SECURITY PROBLEMS FACED BY THE RTG AND HAD GONE VERY FAR TO TRY TO PROVIDE NECESSARY SUPPORT. KISSINGER

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